

REMARKS

Favorable consideration and allowance are respectfully requested for claims 6-16 in view of the following remarks.

Status of Application

In the Office Action dated November 5, 2004, claims 6-9 and 11-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,051,641 to Weh (the "Weh patent"). Claims 10 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over the Weh patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,783,886 to Hong (the "Hong patent"). Claims 6 and 7 have been amended, with claim 7 merely being rewritten in independent form. Please note that the word "second" in claim 13 was added to the claim in the amendment filed on August 24, 2004; in that amendment, that word was presented both underlined (as required by rule) and with a strikethrough (which was inadvertent and has been corrected).

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

According to the Examiner, the Weh patent discloses each of the limitations of claims 6-9 and 11-15. With respect to claim 6, the Examiner asserted that the rotor in the Weh patent is laterally surrounded by two cylindrical stator rings. Claim 6 has been amended to further recite a disk-shaped geometry for the rotor. This geometry is not taught by the Weh patent, and, therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the Weh patent does not anticipate claim 6. As each of claims 11-16 depends, either directly or indirectly, from claim 6, the Weh patent also does not anticipate these claims. For the

foregoing reasons, Applicant requests that the rejection of claims 6 and 11-16 be withdrawn.

With respect to claim 7, which previously depended from claim 6 and has now been rewritten in independent form, the Examiner asserted that the Weh patent has two cylindrical rotor elements and the each of the two cylindrical rotor elements has two rings of polarity-alternating magnets. In response, Applicant respectfully submits that each of the two cylindrical rotor elements in the Weh patent referred to by the Examiner has a single ring of polarity-alternating magnets. For example, as seen in Figure 1 of the Weh patent, one of the cylindrical rotor elements has a single ring of alternating-polarity elements, W1" ("N"), W2" ("S"), W3" ("N"), etc.

In contrast, claim 7 of the present invention requires that "each of said two cylindrical rotor elements has two rings of polarity-alternating magnets." This structure is illustrated in Figure 3, where rotor element 36 has two rings of polarity-alternating magnets 38, 39, and where rotor element 37 also has two rings of polarity-alternating magnets 38, 39. This structure is not taught by the Weh patent, and, therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the Weh patent does not anticipate claim 7. As each of claims 8-10 depends directly from claim 7, the Weh patent also does not anticipate these claims. For the foregoing reasons, Applicant requests that the rejection of claims 7-10 be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

According to the Examiner, the Weh patent discloses all of the limitations of claims 10 and 16 except for "showing the electric drive arrangement wherein

additional permanent magnets are arranged about said stator blades and about said permanent magnets of said rotor for magnetic centering of said rotor.” The Examiner further stated that at the time of the present invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Weh by arranging additional permanent magnets about the stator blades and about the permanent magnets of the rotor for magnetic centering of the rotor, as taught by the Hong patent.

In response, Applicant respectfully submits, as described above, that the Weh patent does not disclose each and every limitation in claim 7. Therefore, as claim 10 depends directly from claim 7, claim 10 is neither anticipated by the Weh patent nor is rendered obvious by the combination of the Weh patent and the Hong patent.

Further in response, Applicant respectfully submits, as described above, that the Weh patent does not disclose each and every limitation in claim 6, as amended. Therefore, as claim 16 depends indirectly from claims 6, claim 16 is neither anticipated by the Weh patent nor is rendered obvious by the combination of the Weh patent and the Hong patent.

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If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

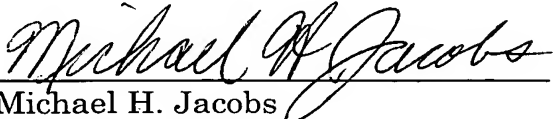
If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and

please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit

Account No. 05-1323 (Docket No. 038741.52724US).

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 4, 2005

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Michael H. Jacobs", written over a horizontal line.

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